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Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter from the former Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (see annex), dated 21 December 2011, regarding IMO resolution A27/Res.1044* of 20 December 2011, on piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia, adopted by the IMO biennial assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

* The resolution referred to is on file with the Secretariat and is available for consultation.

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Annex

Letter dated 21 December 2011 from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to thank you most sincerely for your unstinting efforts to spearhead, through Security Council resolution 2020 (2011), action, by States and regional organizations that have the capacity to do so, to join in the fight against piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia.

I also wish to thank you for your personal support to promote the 2011 World Maritime Day theme of the International Maritime Organization (IMO): "Piracy — orchestrating the response" and its attendant action plan, not only through your personal involvement at the launch of the plan in February of this year, but also through your support to the various efforts made by IMO and the shipping industry to develop and update guidance, best management practices and associated recommendations to assist ships to prevent and suppress piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia. These efforts were supplemented by the compilation of guidance on privately contracted armed security personnel onboard ships in high-risk areas; and by the capacity-building efforts in the region made by IMO through the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Djibouti Code of Conduct Trust Fund.

You may be pleased to note the good progress made in the common efforts to suppress the menace of modern-day piracy through recently compiled statistics, which show that against 33 ships and 733 seafarers held captive by pirates in February (when the numbers peaked to record highs), the numbers have lately fallen to almost one third of those mentioned above: to 13 ships and 265 seafarers.

Another aspect of the overall effort to note with satisfaction is the excellent collaboration between IMO and the United Nations, in particular with your Office, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, which has continued to flourish, leading to several advances in our shared aim of eradicating piracy from the troubled waters off Somalia, while also addressing its root causes on land.

In its efforts to do just that, the biennial Assembly of IMO (which concluded its twenty-seventh session on 30 November 2011), adopted resolution A.1044(27) on piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia, which, whilst welcoming, among other things, the aforementioned Security Council resolution, has requested me to transmit to you a copy of that resolution for your consideration and any further action you may deem appropriate, and to express to you and, through you, to the Security Council, the thanks and appreciation of IMO for the actions you have taken on the piracy issue thus far. The purpose of this letter is also in compliance with that request of the IMO Assembly.

(*Signed*) E. E. **Mitropoulos**
Secretary-General